K Devereux (R) 3d Earl of Essex.

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EXTRACTS
OF SOME
LETTERS

From ſome Gentlemen of quality in his Excellencies ARMY,

Concerning the ſtate of the Kings Army and their owne.

Written to Mr. *Richard Shute* a Merchant in *Woodſtreet*. *Decem.* 13. 1642.

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EXTRACTS
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out of ſome
LET'TERS
Concerning
The ſtate of both Armies.

Decemb. 13.

SIR,

WE heare of your diſtractions at *London*, but they diſcourage not, becauſe we know your ability to ſuppreſſe them: let the power of your Common Councell be improved, and let the more active in this Riot be proceeded againſt.

For the Kings Army, we little feare them, we heare ſo much of their needy and weake condition. And we believe that their owne apprehenſions thereof move efficiently to this preſent mutinous accommodation, and we have cauſe to feare not onely that their faction work for it who are among you, but that of late divers are come from the Kings Army to *London*, to aſſiſt the preſent commotions: Let your Courts of Guard be kept ſtrictly, for a knot of Cavaleeriſh faces were lately met towards you, who were over-heard to ſay, *If this buſineſſe doe but hold on, they ſhould lay the Round-heads low.*

If the Kings Forces dare but move towards you, we ſhall not faile to be upon their backes. If you continue your incouragements towards us, we ſhall ſhortly fall on them at *Reading* or *Oxford*.

Decemb. 12. 1642.

OUr laſt to you mentioned the buſineſſe of *Marleborough* taken by the Enemy, of which my Lord Generall received more particularly by one yeſterday, that the Towne had in it but forty compleatly armed men, the Forces expected from the Countrie under the Command of Sir *Edward Baynton*, being not yet come in to them. That the Kings Forces were about 4000. men, which came with Granadoes, Petards, and Drakes. Notſtanding

withſtanding all their preparation, the Towne ſo oppoſed them they could not fire it, but by ſome boyes which crept into ſome thatched houſes, and ſo fired them. Which being ſo unexpected, amazed the people, who hopeleſſe with that weake force to keepe the Towne long, the armed men retired, and in the evening the Enemy entred, who there committed the ſame *uncleane*, *inhumane*, and *cruell* actions to the *women* there, as their fellow devils have done in *Ireland*. They tooke above an hundred of the poore Country men priſoners, pillaged throughout the Towne, ſlew only two, but loſt divers of their owne, redeemed the Lord *Seymers* Lady, and ſo retreated for *Oxford*. Our Forces then at *Newbury*, marched towards *Wantage*, fell upon their Reare, tooke divers priſoners, ſlew about forty, tooke alſo moſt of the pillage, they had gotten from *Marleborough*.

We heare from *Oxford*, that the King is in great ſtraits, the Mint quite dry, the complaint is not the Common Souldiers onely, but the Lords, and the Kings himſelfe, they are ſo much exhauſted, and as full of feares as wants. They ſend into all high wayes and poſſeſſe themſelves of ſuch droves of Beaſts as they meet withall, and ſell Robin-Hoods bargaines againe to raiſe money for them. We expect every moment to heare from our *Newbury* party, wherof we ſhall render you an account as occaſion offers.

December 11.

MY loving Friend, belike your Citizens wonder and blame us that no more is done by our Army; assure your selfe the whole businesse of the Army is managed by such as are both wise and faithfull to the cause; and as much is done as can be done; we doe but waite for opportunities; *Marleborough* is taken by the Kings party, with the losse of many of their men, and of but two of our horse, many taken prisoners; the honest women basely abused, stript naked and worse: ours have taken many of theirs to the number of 30. & of five Waggons intercepted by Colonell *Goodwin*; wee have cause to wonder that the Citie should bee so unlike themselves, that when they have authority and power in their hands should not dare to shew themselves against the Malignant party, but rather choose to let the worke fall to the ground, and ruine themselves and the whole kingdome, and engage God against them, rather then hazard the displeasure of some great ones, enemies of God, whose breath is in their nostrills. What? will they lose the honour, the comfort and benefit of all they have done hitherto? will they repent of their goodnesse? will they rather sinke under the burthen, then have some of it, at least upon their enemies shoulders? will they out of a base cowardly spirit betray themselves, and this glorious cause

into the hands of the Enemye! prodigious ſottiſhneſſe! I aſſure my ſelfe did many but know what ſtate the Kings Army is in, they would not ſo incline to accommodation. I met with ſpeciall intelligence this day from one of the Kings Army concerning their preſent ſtate: he ingenuouſly confeſſed they are in a very low caſe, money is ſpent, pouder is ſpent, the King is fain to ſell Oxen to buy proviſion for himſelfe, their horſe mightily worne out, their foot ready to mutiny every day, their Dragooners want Bootes, and many are without ſhoos or ſtockings: great feare is upon them, becauſe the Parliaments Army ſo purſues them, they complaine they can reſt no where they are ſo hunted up and downe; the ſpirits of the Lords with them were much downe, but the maine thing that diſcourage them is the riſing of the Counties. What ſhall we have ſo faire a game and leeſe it for want of playing our Cards? If you would in ſtead of an accommodation drive home an aſſociation of Parliament (or ſo many of them as would) and Citie and Counties with the Lord Generall, the buſineſſe through God would ſoone be done. The Lord direct you and bleſſe you in your indeavours and turne all croſſe Paſſages to good. The Lord accompliſh his owne worke in his owne way, by his owne meanes, in his owne time, and let us ſubſcribe to his wiſedome and ſubmit to his will; let us doe our duty, goe the world which way it will, and the Lord doe what hee pleaſe; let's not trou-

trouble our selves about events, not torment our selves with what is not in our power to helpe; if the worst come that can come, Gods work must goe on, the best is, our God lives and raignes, and our life hangs not upon any thing under heaven, but upon him that is above all. I rest

Windsor, Decemb. 11.

Yours in all love assurance.

FINIS.

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